

RIVER STAGES AND FLOODS FOR NOVEMBER 1949

Severe floods occurred in the Pacific Northwest during the latter part of November causing the loss of several lives and considerable damage. Very little flooding occurred elsewhere in the United States. It was quite a contrast to 1 year ago when floods were much more general and severe.

Atlantic Slope drainage.—Precipitation averaged below normal along the Atlantic Slope during November except in the extreme northern portion and at a few scattered points. It was the driest November since 1936 in portions of the Delaware and Schuylkill River Basins with stages remaining low throughout the month.

Heavy rains (3 to 4 inches) occurred over eastern North Carolina from October 29 through November 1, causing overflows on the Cape Fear, Neuse, and Roanoke Rivers.

The heavy rains over the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin on the 1st caused light flooding on the Pee Dee River at Cheraw and Pee Dee, S. C., but no property damage occurred.

Ohio Basin.—Flood stage was reached but not exceeded on the West Branch of the Monongahela at Weston, W. Va., on the 29th due to heavy rains (1.75 inches) over the headwaters on the 28th. The French Broad River exceeded flood stage slightly at Asheville, N. C., on the 1st and 2d due to heavy rains on October 31 and November 1.

Flood stages were reached on the Tennessee River at Whitesburg, Ala., and on the South Chickamauga Creek at Chickamauga, Tenn., due to the heavy rains during the last week in October. No damages resulted.

Puget Sound and Washington Coast drainage.—The worst flood in 28 years occurred in the lower Skagit Valley from the 27th to the 28th. It was due to heavy rains that began on the 23d, continuing through the night of the 26-27th. During the 5-day period 11.2 inches of rain were recorded in the upper Skagit, with 4.5 inches of it occurring during the last 24 hours. Snow-melt was not an appreciable factor and rainfall averaged considerably less than 1 inch per day in the lower valleys. All of the streams in western Washington were near or somewhat above flood stage by the 27th, but extensive damage occurred only in the lower Skagit Valley. One of the hardest hit towns in this valley since 1921 was Hamilton.

In the Snohomish Valley, this flood was the greatest since 1934. Considerable damage resulted and several lives were lost.

FLOOD STAGE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1949

[All dates in November unless otherwise specified]

River and station	Flood stage	Above flood stages— dates		Crest ¹	
		From—	To—	Stage	Date
ATLANTIC SLOPE DRAINAGE					
Roanoke:	<i>Feet</i>			<i>Feet</i>	
Weldon, N. C.....	31	1	5	38.8	3
Scotland Neck, N. C.....	28	3	7	31.4	5
Williamston, N. C.....	10	4	14	11.6	9
Neuse:					
Neuse, N. C.....	14	2	5	16.5	4
Smithfield, N. C.....	13	2	6	15.7	5
Cape Fear:					
Fayetteville, N. C.....	35	3	3	36.4	3
Lock No. 2, Elizabethtown, N. C..	20	1	6	28.5	4
Pee Dee:					
Cheraw, S. C.....	30	2	4	34.0	2
Pee Dee, S. C.....	19	4	10	21.3	7
MISSISSIPPI SYSTEM					
Ohio Basin					
West Fork: Weston, W. Va.....	17	29	29	17.0	29
French Broad: Asheville, N. C.....	6	1	2	7.3	1
WEST GULF OF MEXICO DRAINAGE					
Sabine:					
Mineola, Tex.....	14	Oct. 25	2	17.4	Oct. 29
Gladewater, Tex.....	26	Oct. 30	7	31.8	2
PACIFIC SLOPE DRAINAGE					
Columbia Basin					
Santiam: Jefferson, Oreg.....	13	27	28	14.6	28
Chehalis Basin					
Satsop: Satsop, Wash.....	34	27	27	34.6	27
Chehalis: Grand Mound, Wash.....	12.5	28	29	13.4	28
Puget Sound					
Snoqualmie: Tolt, Wash.....	51.5	27	28	54.2	28
Snohomish: Snohomish, Wash.....	24	13 27	13 28	23.8 27.5	13 27
Skagit:					
Concrete, Wash.....				40.7	27
Mount Vernon, Wash.....	22	27	28	27.7	28
Nooksack: Deming, Wash.....	25	27	27	26.7	27

¹ Provisional.

² Highest of record.